

FIRST UNITED
CHURCH of CHRIST
Northfield · Minnesota

The Chronicle

A monthly newsletter of The First United Church of Christ, Congregational
300 Union Street, Northfield, 55057
An Open and Affirming, Just Peace Church



Search & Call Update

Dear Members of First UCC of Northfield,

We are thrilled to share the news that the Search and Call Committee has recommended calling a senior minister and that a special congregational meeting has been scheduled immediately following worship on Sunday, February 19th to finalize the call and officially welcome the candidate to First UCC of Northfield. Information about the candidate was mailed to all First UCC members on January 20th.

In accordance with our constitution, a special meeting of the church is required to call a new minister, and no issue other than calling the minister may be acted on at the meeting. The calling of the minister requires a two-thirds vote of the members present.

In addition to the special congregational meeting, there will be opportunities during the weekend to meet and get to know the candidate. On Saturday, February 18th, there will be an open house and light supper from 3:00pm to 5:00pm to welcome the candidate. The candidate will lead worship and preach a candidating sermon during the 10:00am worship service on

Sunday, February 19th. Assuming a positive vote, following the congregational meeting there will be a soup/chili lunch hosted by First UCC youth and the Search Committee.

Candidating Sundays are truly celebrations; a chance for the church family to come together and begin to share the Search Committee's excitement for future leadership. We hope to have as many members in attendance as possible for the call sermon and to celebrate this moment in our congregation's history.

With hope and celebration,

*Brad Hoff, Moderator
Sarah Forster, Vice-Moderator
David Beimers, Chair, Search and Call Committee*



February Stewardship Message

Stewards of Our Relationship with One Another

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.
Luke 10:27

We belong to God; we belong to one another. In his book, *Reaching*

Out, Henri Nouwen tells of a reunion with a former student, an experience that revealed to him the meaning of community: "It is the Christ in you, who recognizes the Christ in me... From now on, wherever you go, or wherever I go, all the ground between us will be holy ground."

During February, let us walk on holy ground, practicing the radical hospitality Jesus modeled. Starting with our most personal and intimate relationships and moving through expanding circles – of friends, relations, church family, co-workers, and others with whom we come in contact – we tend to the quality of our interaction in these relationships using spiritual practices of forgiveness, reconciliation, justice, openness, honesty, hospitality, shaping communities. We widen our circle, reaching out to unknown neighbors through local and ecumenical service organizations and UCC programs and networks. We participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing special mission offering, typically promoted in churches during February and received the first Sunday in March. As centers of hope and transformation, local churches guide people onto holy ground.

~ A message from Stewards in the Household of God: a Resource for Holistic Year-round Stewardship available from United Church of Christ Resources.



Ash Wednesday and Lenten Worship Services

The Ash Wednesday service will be held on Wednesday, February 22nd at 6:30 pm. All Lenten services will take place at 6:30pm and begin with a soup supper at 5:30pm in the assembly room. The worship services will be in the sanctuary.



2012 Pilgrim Point All-Church Retreat

First UCC will be having its second annual all-church retreat at Pilgrim Point on July 20-22, 2012. More information to come!



SSR Update

2011 Christmas Eve Offering:

First UCC collected \$3,122 for the 2011 Christmas Eve Offering. These funds were distributed three equal ways between the Northfield Community Action Center, Minneapolis Housing Alliance, and UCC Pension Boards and Ministerial Programs.

2011 OCWM Contribution:

First UCC contributed a total of \$48,451 to the MN Conference for 2011 OCWM, significantly exceeding its commitment of \$45,838. First UCC continues to be a leader, both locally and nationally, in OCWM giving.

Thank You...

... for honoring the important individuals we serve by supporting the projects benefitting the adults

residing on the *Northfield Retirement Community* campus. Your gift of \$500 will benefit the quality of life of NRC residents. ~ Ingrid Anderson Sampo, VP, Fund Development

... for your generous support of *Growing Up Healthy* and the work we do in Rice County. We are helping a group of Northfield residents in a low-income apartment complex organize to work for higher-quality housing and better treatment – certainly issues directly related to justice and peace. ~ Janet Lewis Muth

~ *The Service and Social Responsibility Committee (SSR): Jan Mitchell, Barbara Crouter, Garda Kahn, Matt Rohn, Mary Savina*



Thank You!

Thanks to all who responded to our need for grade 2/3 Sunday school teachers. We appreciate your willingness to help, and are happy that the program will be able to continue uninterrupted.

~ *CE Committee: Jami Reister, Deb Olien, Shari Sneary, Melissa Sharpe*



Faith Formation ~ It is for Folks of All Ages

Each Wednesday evening through February 15th, we will embark upon a visioning process that will enable us to look toward the future and imagine what God is calling us to do and be as people of faith. This conversation will involve everything from how we have sought to pass on the old, old story of faith in the past to how we are currently attempting to do this work, and how

we might do this even better in the future.

It is our hope to have as many people involved in this discussion as possible. Our conversations will include (but not be limited to) the following:

What is the best way to help raise our children in the Christian faith?

Why is it so hard to recruit Sunday School teachers?

What do we do really well in forming the faith of our members?

How might we craft a Confirmation program that keeps our youth involved in the life of the church AFTER they are confirmed?

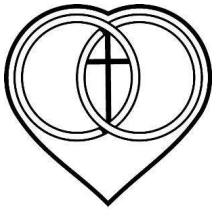
How do we ensure our children understand that faith calls them to action and to service of others?

In general - How can we integrate the wisdom of our elders, the excitement of our children and the enthusiasm of our youth into a Faith Formation Program that reaches out to our members and to our community?

If any of these questions strike a chord with you, join us on Wednesday nights at WFFF – *Wednesdays Food Fellowship and Faith* beginning with a meal at 5:30pm, then stay for our ongoing conversation that will address these types of questions. We will continue this conversation for several consecutive weeks following the meal.

As a faith community we are charged to deepen our own faith and to reach out beyond ourselves to share in helping form the faith of our whole membership (beginning at baptism and continuing throughout our entire adult lives). I hope you will seriously consider taking part in these conversations.

~ *Rev. Cindy Mueller*



Marriage Equality From the Heart

Sat., Feb. 11 @ 7:00pm, First UCC

Come to this interfaith forum to learn from speakers, support a good cause (the defeat of a restrictive state constitutional marriage amendment) and enjoy rich deserts the Saturday before Valentine's Day. All proceeds go to Minnesotans United for All Families. Adults \$10; students \$5 – available at the church and around town.



February Sunday Forums

Following worship @ 11:30am

Please join us at our Sunday Forums as we explore the many aspects that form our faith.

Feb. 5 Why People of Faith Should Care About Our Food and Agriculture System

led by Reginaldo (Regi) Haslett-Marroquin, Director of the Rural Enterprise Center program at the nonprofit Main Street Project

Feb. 12 Voter Protection: Your Role in Ensuring Fair Elections

led by David Griggs, Deputy Field Director of the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee

Feb. 19 No Forum (Candidating Sunday)

Feb. 26 Severson's Antarctic Adventure

led by John and Lynne Severson, who will show a slide show of their recent journey



High School CYE Event March 2-4

"Bullying and Your Faith"

Camp Koinonia (1 1/2 hour drive from Northfield, please contact Pastor Cindy for details, scholarships available)

Register at www.pilgrimpoint.org



2012 Youth Mission Trip

If you are interested in attending the 2012 Youth Mission Trip in the summer, please contact Pastor Cindy as soon as possible. Registration closes soon!

First UCC Staff:

Interim Senior Minister:
Rev. Cindy Mueller

Interim Associate Minister:
Rev. Dr. Bob Griggs
bobgriggs@firstucc.org

Office Manager:
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Website: www.firstucc.org

Phones: (507) 645-7532, 645-4694



February Trustee Counters

Karl Vohs
Mary Doezema Cooper



February Bell Ringers

Feb. 5: Steve Wilmot
Feb. 12: Pete Carlson
Feb. 19: Brad Hoff
Feb. 26: Bill Poehlmann



February Sound Technicians

Feb. 5: Alex Battiste
Feb. 12: Christoph Hodel
Feb. 19: William Beimers
Feb. 26: John Severson



Fountain Needed

Pastor Cindy is on the lookout for a fairly large tabletop fountain to use in worship throughout Lent. Please contact her if you have any leads on one.



StillSpeaking Daily Devotional

Start your day off right. Sign up to receive the StillSpeaking Daily Devotional, delivered each morning to your e-mail inbox. Visit <http://www.ucc.org/feed-your-spirit/daily-devotional/>.



Marriage Equality

By contacting voters via a phone bank you can change hearts and minds to favor marriage equality by voting against the proposed marriage amendment to the Minnesota State Constitution. Two phone banks for UCC members are planned in February: Thursday, the 6th, at St. Paul UCC in St. Paul 6-9 PM; and Tuesday, the 21st, at Linden Hills UCC in Minneapolis 6-9 PM. Extensive training is available as part of the evening. Please RSVP to jswanson@outfront.org if you can participate.

Are You Missing Something?

The church office is accumulating a growing pile of lost and found items, mostly winter outerwear accessories. Please stop by and take a look if you are missing something.

Lay Leaders of First United Church of Christ

Council

Officers:

Moderator – Sarah Forster

Vice-Moderator – Greg Muth

Treasurer - Phil Kasten/Marty Pelikan

Assistant Treasurer – Leota Goodney

Clerk – Jane McWilliams

Members at Large - Carol Rutz, Bob Bruce, Jerry Mohrig



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Generally Rev. Mueller is in Northfield Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, & Sunday
 Generally Rev. Dr. Griggs is in Northfield Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, & Sunday

FEBRUARY 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 12:00 PM Stepsisters 4:45 PM Angel Choir Rehearsal 5:30 PM WFFF 6:15 PM Rainbow Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Senior Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Trustees Meeting	2 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Knitting Group 1:30 PM Office Staff Meeting 4:45 PM Music Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Youth Committee Meeting	3	4 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Transition Northfield 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM Deacons' Meeting (Anne Meyer-Ruppel's home) 9:30 AM Stepsisters (#113)
5 10:00 AM Worship Service with Communion 11:15 AM Coffee Hour 11:30 AM High School Youth Group	6 4:15 PM Men's Group 6:00 PM Girl Scouts (Assembly Room)	7 7:00 PM Cabinet Meeting	8 9:30 AM CE Meeting 12:00 PM Stepsisters 4:45 PM Angel Choir Rehearsal 5:30 PM WFFF 6:15 PM Rainbow Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Deacons Meeting 7:00 PM Senior Choir Rehearsal	9 Cindy & Bob at Retirement Event (Mayflower UCC)	10	11 9:30 AM Stepsisters (#113) 3:00 PM - 10:00 PM Marriage Equity Forum
12 10:00 AM Worship Service & Sunday School 11:15 AM Coffee Hour 11:15 AM Middle School Youth Group 11:30 AM High School Youth Group	13	14	15 12:00 PM Stepsisters 4:45 PM Angel Choir Rehearsal 5:30 PM WFFF 6:15 PM Rainbow Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Council Meeting 7:00 PM Senior Choir Rehearsal	16 10:30 AM - 2:00 PM Growing Up Healthy Multi-Cultural Cooking Club 1:30 PM Office Staff Meeting	17	18 9:30 AM Stepsisters (#113) 10:00 AM Bible Study 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Meet the Minister Candidate Open House at Church
19 <i>Candidating Sunday</i> 10:00 AM Worship Service (No Sunday School) 11:15 AM Congregational Meeting to Vote on Search Committee's Senior Minister Recommendation 11:45 AM Soup/Chili Lunch hosted by Children, Youth, and High School Groups	20 8:30 AM Men's Group Breakfast 6:30 PM Girl Scouts (Big Room)	21	22 ASH WEDNESDAY <i>Bob Out/Continuing Ed</i> 12:00 PM Stepsisters 4:45 PM Angel Choir Rehearsal 5:30 PM WFFF 6:15 PM Rainbow Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Lenten Service 7:15 PM Senior Choir Rehearsal	23 <i>Bob Out/Continuing Ed</i> 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM Transition Northfield	24 <i>Bob Out/Continuing Ed</i>	25 <i>Bob Out/Continuing Ed</i> 9:30 AM Stepsisters (#113)
26 <i>Bob Out/Continuing Ed</i> 10:00 AM Worship Service & Sunday School 11:15 AM Coffee Hour 11:15 AM Middle School Youth Group	27 <i>Bob Out/Continuing Ed</i>	28 <i>Bob Out/Continuing Ed</i>	29 <i>Bob Out/Continuing Ed</i> 12:00 PM Stepsisters 4:45 PM Angel Choir Rehearsal 5:30 PM WFFF 6:15 PM Rainbow Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Lenten Service 7:15 PM Senior Choir Rehearsal			